Dublin, 137, Lower Leeson Road.

June 24-1872

Dear Mr May- I write in bed. It is a long time since I heard from you except by way of Harpers Weekly. I am greatly changed. I spend half my time in bed - several hours lying under ~~an arbed~~ a tent devised by Alfred & lying on an air bed, very soft & comfortable, which I bought at an auction many years ago on the chance of its proving useful to our family & the neighbours, as it has often. It is formed in compartments like an iron ship & is filled by a bellows supplied for the purpose. I got it for $7 - original price $45 - a great bargain. The remaining hours of the 24 I lie on the drawing room sofa or recline a short time in an easy chair. All the lameness arises from what my homoeopathic doctor tells me is a weak heart with a poor pulse, indicating the formation of blood too poor to carry on the functions of life properly. I am feeble on my limbs & my progress from my bed chamber which is now a few steps below the level of our sitting rooms to the far end of the garden is effected by means of ~~the~~ a cane arm chair with appropriate handles which enable two bearers (generally Richard & one of our servants) to carry me to the air bed under the tent. There I receive visitors from 12 to 5, or listen to reading by any volunteer who may offer & there is rarely any deficiency. By far the most con-

and indefatigable is my niece Lizzy, my brother Thomas's second daughter, a remarkably strong, active good natured, good hearted, unaffected girl. She is a wonderful help to Deborah who you may be sure, has plenty on her hands as general house mistress & manager.

Just now all our rooms are full. My former chamber is occupied by one of the Mish Sulvots & her Jackdaw that she means to take to Salem, Ohio, in August. Over my room in Deborah's, a lightsome little room & the very same size. In the top front room are Richard & Samuel Mumford of Detroit — & in the room behind Sam's sister Annie who we expect will pay Deborah a long visit — as they are warmly attached friends, united by a community of infirmities — both having weak eyes & having little bodily energy to board of. I dont feel sure that Annie Mumford (she prefers to be called Annie — as a die likes <u>Adie</u> better than <u>Miss</u>) would have faced the Atlantic if it had not been for the prospect of a visit to Deborah.

As to the Celebration, the subject is very distasteful to me & I shrink also I see about it in the Daily Tribune & in all the rest of the many American & English papers that reach me. I can't settle the question & nobody else seems likely to be able to do it. Our House of Lords is a difficulty in the

way & I dislike them increasingly. As to the Grant & Greeley controversy I incline rather to Grant, but I have not yet Sumners speech, of which I have several copies, & it will be a formidable operation. I dont mean to do to myself – but my niece Lizzy into fits & like a homes. – There now, she has finished 2/9 ths of the whole.

The Doctor has been here & he evidently dont think I have gained since his last visit – white lips, pale face, brown skin, general weakness – & so with love to you all I remain Yours affectionately

Richard D. Webb.

MS. B. 1, 6 v. 15 - p. 136